

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Priority Claim

The present application claims priority on European Patent Application 02252120.7 filed 25 March 2002.--

On page 1, above line 1, but below above, insert--Field of the Invention--

Paragraph at line 1 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

-- The present invention relates to a method and device for separating a mixture of fluids, which are not completely mixable. ~~Such mixtures appear, e.g., in the recovery of natural resources from oil and gas wells. The products of such recoveries can include mixtures of gas, oil and water. These mixtures may comprise three phases. Depending on pressures and other physical circumstances the mixtures recovered may comprise two phases, a hydrocarbon phase containing oil and optionally dissolved gas, and water. It also occurs that hardly any gas is present so that there is a two-phase mixture.--~~

On page 1, above line 4, insert--Background of the Invention

Such mixtures appear, e.g., in the recovery of natural resources from oil and gas wells. The products of such recoveries can include mixtures of gas, oil and water. These mixtures may comprise three phases. Depending on pressures and other physical circumstances the mixtures recovered may comprise two phases, a hydrocarbon phase containing oil and optionally dissolved gas, and water. It also occurs that hardly any gas is present so that there is a two-phase mixture.--

On page 3, delete lines 8-35.

On page 4, above line 1, insert--Summary of the Invention--

Paragraph at line 1 of page 4 has been amended as follows:

-- The method of the present invention provides an easy way to ensure that the different phases are withdrawn separately from the separation device. The fact that the

mixture is maintained in a stratified flow is a major enabler of this accomplishment. In one embodiment the supply pipe is different from the pipeline conduit through which the mixture is fed to the separation device described. This is suitably the case when the mixture is not in a stratified flow, and the supply pipe serves then to achieve such stratified flow. In an alternative embodiment, in particular when the mixture is already in a stratified flow, the supply pipe is the same as the pipeline conduit. Applicant had found that stratified flow in the supply conduit can be maintained if the diameter of the supply pipe is selected such that during normal operation the velocities of the liquids are below a pre-determined value, and if the ratio of the length of the supply pipe to its diameter is larger than 5, especially larger than 10. Applicant has further found that the slope of the inclined pipe can be selected such that during normal operations a stratified flow is maintained in the inclined pipe. Suitably, the slope of the inclined pipe ranges between 1 and 5, preferably between 1 and 3° from the horizontal plane. The stratified flow makes it possible to use a level monitor to determine where the interface between the heavier and the lighter phases is. Via the first or second discharge system the level can then be adjusted. Preferably one employs a level controller in combination with a valve as the level controller means in the first and/or second discharge system.

On page 5, above line 34, insert--Brief Description of the Drawing--

On page 6, above line 6, insert--Detailed Embodiment of the Invention--

On page 10 after line 25, add the following paragraph:

--While the illustrative embodiments of the invention have been described with particularity, it will be understood that various other modifications will be readily apparent to, and can be easily made by one skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. Accordingly, it is not intended that the scope of the following claims be limited to the examples and descriptions set forth herein but rather that the claims be construed as encompassing all features which would be treated as equivalents thereof by those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains.--

On page 11, insert: We claim: